

The nerve damage resulting from this disease can have devastating consequences, including muscle paralysis, loss of sensation in the skin, and spine and limb deformities. Most babies with spina bifida also develop hydrocephalus—a potentially dangerous buildup of fluid pressure within the brain.

But thanks to important advances in neurosurgery and antibiotic therapy, a baby born with spina bifida today has between an 80 and 95 percent chance for survival. And the development of new surgical and bracing procedures and devices to compensate for lost function have made it possible for patients to lead more active and normal lives.

Research now under way in the Nation's scientific laboratories is aimed at improving our understanding the cause of this disease and developing methods to prevent it. Much of this work is being done by scientists supported by the Federal government's National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Voluntary agencies like the Spina Bifida Association of America, the National Easter Seal Society, and the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation also promote vital research and provide essential services and encouragement to families. In the work of these agencies, and that of the researchers and clinicians they sponsor, lies the hope that we will one day conquer spina bifida.

To enhance public awareness of the problem of spina bifida, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 368, has designated the month of October 1986 as "National Spina Bifida Month" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of October 1986 as National Spina Bifida Month, and I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate observances and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 8th day of Oct., in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eleventh.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5545 of October 8, 1986

National Job Skills Week, 1986

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The economy of the United States, in the midst of one of the longest sustained periods of growth since World War II, is creating a record number of new jobs. More Americans are at work now than ever before. Technological advances in all areas of American industry are contributing not only to the growth in the number of jobs, but to sustained growth in productivity. The dynamic changes occurring in our own marketplace as well as in the global economy will place an even greater emphasis on the development of new job skills.

One of America's greatest competitive assets is the high quality and productivity of its work force. It is appropriate, therefore, that Americans have

come to understand the changes that are underway in the workplace and the demands these developments are generating for new skills. In order to focus national attention on the role of job training efforts in maintaining a competitive work force, the Congress adopted House Joint Resolution 721 designating the week of October 12 through October 18, 1986, as "National Job Skills Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of October 12 through October 18, 1986, as National Job Skills Week, and I urge all Americans and interested groups to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eleventh.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5546 of October 8, 1986

National School Lunch Week, 1986

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Since 1946, the National School Lunch Program has made it possible for our Nation's children to enjoy nutritious, well-balanced, low-cost lunches. Now in its 40th year, this Program stands as a remarkable example of a successful partnership between Federal and State governments and local communities to make food and technical assistance available in an effort to provide a more nutritious diet for students.

The National School Lunch Program demonstrates our commitment to the promotion of the health and well-being of our youth. Under its auspices, more than 23 million lunches are served daily in nearly 90,000 schools throughout our country. The success of this effort is largely due to resourceful and creative food service managers and staff working in cooperation with government personnel, parents, teachers, and members of civic groups.

By joint resolution approved October 9, 1962, the Congress designated the week beginning on the second Sunday of October in each year as "National School Lunch Week" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of that week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning October 12, 1986, as National School Lunch Week, and I call upon all Americans to give special and deserved recognition to those people at the State and local level who, through their dedicated and innovative efforts, have made it possible to have a successful school lunch program.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eleventh.

RONALD REAGAN